

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Klaus-Dieter NITTEL, et al.

**THIS IS A CONTINUATION APPLICATION OF:**      Group Art Unit: 1742

Application No.: 10/088,840

Filed: July 2, 2002

Examiner: A. L. Oltmans

For:      **METHOD FOR APPLYING MANGANESE  
PHOSPHATE LAYERS**

This correspondence is being sent by Express Mail No: EV 331559570 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450 on April 22, 2004.

  
Eileen Sheffield

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to prosecution on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: